

**From:** [Loney, Natalie](#)  
**To:** [Eric McClure](#); [doug@forumfg.com](mailto:doug@forumfg.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Recent CAG Communication  
**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2022 1:59:00 PM

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I'm good after 4pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week.

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**From:** Eric McClure <[eric@parksloopenighbors.org](mailto:eric@parksloopenighbors.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 12:29 PM

**To:** [doug@forumfg.com](mailto:doug@forumfg.com)

**Cc:** Loney, Natalie <[Loney.Natalie@epa.gov](mailto:Loney.Natalie@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Recent CAG Communication

Thanks, Doug. Natalie, let me know if there's a day this week after 4 p.m. that's good for you, and I'll coordinate with Andrea and Chrissy.

—Eric

On Jan 31, 2022, at 9:06 AM, Doug Sarno <[doug@forumfg.com](mailto:doug@forumfg.com)> wrote:

Hi Eric, we would love to have the support of those CAG members who are willing to give it. And yes welcome you to be part of this thinking of how we move forward.

We had been hoping to get a definitive statement from the upper management of EPA to give us something to work from, but it does not look like that is coming at this time.

I am training all week but available any evening this week after 4.

thanks

Doug

On Jan 28, 2022, at 5:27 PM, Eric McClure

<[eric@parksloopenighbors.org](mailto:eric@parksloopenighbors.org)> wrote:

Thanks, Natalie. It's astounds even me that CAG interactions somehow manage to get worse with each passing meeting.

To that end, Andrea and Chrissy and I would be grateful if the two of you might have some time in the next week or so to have a discussion about fixing things. I know this has been an ongoing concern, but the few of us who would like to focus on the cleanup, and to try to have respectful meetings and discussions to that end, are nearing the ends of our respective ropes. And given the internal dynamics of the CAG, we're in a distinct minority, so we feel solutions will need to be imposed, and EPA seems in the best position to do that.

Anyway, neither of you signed up for this, either, in taking your jobs. Appreciate your efforts to try to keep things on the rails. Let me know when you might have time for a discussion.

Thanks,

Eric

On Jan 28, 2022, at 5:10 PM, Loney, Natalie

<[Loney.Natalie@epa.gov](mailto:Loney.Natalie@epa.gov)> wrote:

Gowanus CAG members:

The series of recent e-mails from members of the CAG contain highly inflammatory statements. The language in some of the correspondence is disrespectful and inappropriate. This type of engagement is very counterproductive to our collective efforts and does not further progress in a meaningful way, nor does it foster inclusivity for all people impacted by EPA's cleanup. In order to facilitate healthy engagement by addressing these concerns, I will be working with Doug to organize a CAG focused workshop on sensitivity, cultural awareness and microaggressions, with the goal of fostering positive engagement and re-focusing the CAG's efforts on working together toward a successful cleanup of the Gowanus Canal.

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**From:** Doug Sarno <[doug@forumfg.com](mailto:doug@forumfg.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 11:32 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
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**Subject:** Re: Next Gowanus Canal CAG Meeting is Tuesday  
January 25 at 6:30 PM

Hi all, I strongly support the notion that the CAG needs to do more to increase diversity, and as Natalie pointed out the EPA is also working hard on helping to bring that about and would welcome all efforts.

Just so that everyone understands, Bev Watkins is the person who spoke to the EJ issues and is the Alternate member on the CAG for the Red Hook West Tenants Association and was attending the CAG meeting Tuesday in that capacity. She is a CAG member. One of the main points she made was that EJ representatives were often made to feel unwelcome to the CAG. I hope everyone can pause a moment and make an effort toward both Bev and Karen Blondel who is the main member from Red Hook West TA to prove that notion wrong. The CAG has always been a platform where people speak their truth, and my experience has been that none of the members have ever been reluctant to do so.

thanks,  
Doug

On Jan 27, 2022, at 10:41 AM, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Hi - This is [REDACTED], member at large who runs two Red Hook businesses.

I am writing to say that I was a little surprised at the reaction many of us had to a white consultant who came to the CAG meeting the other day representing the Red Hook West Tenant Association. Someone who as far as I could tell is not a resident there. And who meant to shame us by not having many participants who were NYCHA residents.

I and many others will recall that we have had NYCHA participation in the past, but we cannot force people to attend. Attendance is voluntary, although expected for dedicated members.

It is true that we have thought about having occasional meetings in NYCHA facilities, but in the end, as long as we were meeting in person, we kept it at the one location.

Instead of feeling shame and guilt because of the attacks of a white consultant, I feel a better and constructive response would be perhaps to see if we could try and generate future interest in the CAG from the NYCHA community by doing something like having some internships for young NYCHA residents to learn about what we do, and how meetings work, which would help them with their resumes, and help us in our mission of community participation and communication. Let the Tenant Associations nominate some candidates.

On Wed, Jan 19, 2022 at 10:08 AM Doug Sarno

<[doug@forumfg.com](mailto:doug@forumfg.com)> wrote:

Hi all, please see draft agenda and calendar  
invite attached.

See you next week,

Doug

Doug Sarno

Gowanus Canal CAG Facilitator

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